

**City of San Diego**

Water Department
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San Diego County Water Authority

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County of San Diego

County Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 209
San Diego, CA 92101

May 13, 2008

Lester A. Snow, Director
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836, Room 1115-1
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
lsnow@water.ca.gov

Dorothy R. Rice, Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 25th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
drice@waterboards.ca.gov

**Support for Proposition 50, Chapter 8, Round 2 Proposed \$25 Million
Funding Award for the San Diego Region IRWM Plan**

Dear Director Snow and Executive Director Rice:

On behalf of the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) of the San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWM Plan) and our respective governing Boards and Councils, we are submitting this letter in support of the recommendation to fund San Diego's IRWM Plan up to the full \$25 million funding level. We understand that funding of \$20,675,000 is secured in the State's budget and that the availability of the balance of funds is contingent upon approval of an FY 2008-09 State budget proposal authorizing \$6.4 million in additional Proposition 50, Chapter 8 funding for the IRWM grant program.

The suite of projects submitted by San Diego for funding under Proposition 50, Chapter 8 represent a comprehensive and integrated approach to securing greater water supply reliability and resource protection. We believe that the partnership undertaken over the past two years by a diverse group of local stakeholders developing our IRWM Plan has resulted in a strong foundation for sustained involvement in and evolution of our region's balanced and holistic priorities.

San Diego's IRWM Plan establishes a clear pathway for the continued advancement of collaborative projects featuring multiple benefits that will help to expand reliable local water supplies. These projects are especially important given that the San Diego Region's imported water supplies have been significantly reduced in recent years. Southern California lost half of its

traditional Colorado River supply earlier this decade; court-ordered pumping restrictions reduced State Water Project deliveries by approximately 30 percent this year.

We wish to thank the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board for their continued support of IRWM Planning and grant programs. We urge DWR and the State Board to approve the draft funding recommendations for Round 2, including \$25 million for the San Diego IRWM Plan, or \$20,675,000 should the additional funds not be available in the State FY 2008-09 budget. Given the magnitude of our region's needs and the number of people we serve (3 million), we strongly believe that the final figure should be \$25 million. We appreciate the request made by the Department of Water Resources to transfer the \$6.4 million back to the IRWM grant program and will work with the San Diego delegation to further encourage this budget shift.

Sincerely,

Marsi Steirer
Director Deputy of Water
and Strategic Planning
City of San Diego

Ken Weinberg
Director of Water Resources
San Diego County Water
Authority

Chandra L. Wallar
Deputy Chief Administrative
Officer
Land Use and Environment
Group
County of San Diego

cc: Scott Couch, State Water Resources Control Board, scouch@waterboards.ca.gov
San Diego County State Legislative Delegation
San Diego RWMG – Regional Advisory Committee Members:
Craig Adams, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Rick Alexander, Sweetwater Authority
Kirk Ammerman, City of Chula Vista
Meleah Ashford, Consultant
Michael Bardin, Santa Fe Irrigation District
Chris Basilevac, The Nature Conservancy
Neal Brown, Padre Dam Municipal Water District
Michael Connolly, Campo Kumeyaay Nation
Kathy Flannery, County of San Diego
Linda Flournoy, Sustainability Consultant
Karen Franz, San Diego Coastkeeper/Bay Council
Doug Gibson, San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy
Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation
Shirley Inneken, Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project
Greg Krzys, Bureau of Reclamation
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Mike Thornton, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority

Mr. Lester Snow and Ms. Dorothy Rice

May 13, 2008

Page 3

Shelby Tucker, San Diego Association of Governments

Susan Varty, Olivenhain Municipal Water District

Ken Weinberg, San Diego County Water Authority

Mark Weston, Helix Water District

Richard Wright, San Diego State University